

Christine Joyce

7/26/10 (28)

**From:** James Takacs [253onthepond@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 12:01 PM  
**To:** Christine Joyce; Paulina Knibbe (comcast); Lauren Rosenzweig Morton; Manager Department  
**Subject:** Re: Pancreatic Cancer Awareness



Pancreatic Cancer  
Awareness Mo...

Dear Christine,

As your constituent, I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the estimated 36,800 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2010, approximately 920 of whom live in Massachusetts. In 2010, pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 42,000 Americans, 75% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 94% of whom will die within five years of diagnosis.

My husband, Jim, was one those 75% in 2008 when he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer 10 days after his 47th birthday. As the statistics reflect, this is the norm and, as is typical, he lived a painful 6 1/2 months fighting this disease before it claimed his life. He left behind his eight and ten year-old daughters, Grace and Rosemary, who have now taken on the job of raising awareness and funding for this disease by traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress this past June (see a link to the Boston Globe reporting on their efforts at [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2010/07/11/action\\_family\\_works\\_for\\_pancreatic\\_cancer\\_cure/?camp=misc:on:share:article](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2010/07/11/action_family_works_for_pancreatic_cancer_cure/?camp=misc:on:share:article)), and by foregoing birthday gifts and asking their friends to bring donations to PanCAN instead.

To date, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and it is the deadliest, with the lowest survival rate of any major cancer. Furthermore, there has been little improvement in the survival rates over the last forty years. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a town proclamation supporting the observance of November 2010 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, you can help us to raise awareness in our community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

We request that a total of three originals of the proclamation to be made available for our records. Please contact me at 617-759-6290 or 253onthepond@verizon.net with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Very truly yours,

# **Acton, Massachusetts Proclamation**

## **RESOLUTION**

### **DECLARING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

#### **“PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE TOWN OF ACTON.**

**WHEREAS** in 2010, an estimated 43,140 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 36,800 will die from the disease;

**WHEREAS** pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers and is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States;

**WHEREAS** when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;

**WHEREAS** incidence of pancreatic cancer is approximately 50 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups;

**WHEREAS** in 2010, approximately 920 deaths will occur in Massachusetts;

**WHEREAS** there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in survival rates in the last 40 years;

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government invests significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in any of the other leading cancer killers; and pancreatic cancer research constitutes only 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it;

**WHEREAS** the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in Acton and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;

**WHEREAS** the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Massachusetts support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure;

**WHEREAS** the good health and well-being of the residents of Acton are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Town of Acton designates the month of November, 2010 "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in the town of Acton.

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**Lauren Rosenzweig Morton, Chairman**  
**ACTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**